SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 25th October, 2016

1. The Senate met at 10:25 a.m. The Deputy Senate President read Prayers.

2. **Votes and Proceedings:**
The Senate examined the Votes and Proceedings of Thursday, 20th October, 2016.

Question was put and the Votes and Proceedings were approved.

3. **Message from Mr. President:**
The Deputy Senate President announced that he had received a letter from Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation, which he read as follows:

Virement:

PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

24th October, 2016

Distinguished Senator Abubakar Bukola Saraki
President of the Senate,
Senate Chambers,
National Assembly Complex,
Three Arms Zone,
Abuja.

REQUEST FOR VIREMENT OF FUNDS APPROPRIATED FOR SPECIAL INTERVENTION (RECURRENT) AND SPECIAL INTERVENTION (CAPITAL) FOR THE FUNDING OF CRITICAL RECURRENT AND CAPITAL ITEMS.

I write to request for the virement of funds appropriated for Special Intervention (Recurrent) and Special Intervention (Capital) to fund some critical recurrent and capital items.

This request has arisen due to a number of reasons including: shortfalls in provisions for personnel costs; inadequate provision ab initio for some items like the amnesty programme; continuing requirements to sustain the war against insurgency; and depreciation of the Naira.

However, considering the fact that budgeted revenues are running behind target largely due to the renewed violence in the Niger Delta, and there are no supplementary revenue sources, the most viable option for now is the virement of appropriated funds from heads or sub-heads that may not be fully utilized before the end of this fiscal year.

In the course of implementing the 2016 Appropriation Act, several MDAs have presented issues pertaining to salary shortfalls, the settlement of part of which has led to the depletion of the Public Service Wage Adjustment (PSWA). This Vote, which had a provision of ₦33,597,400,000, now has a balance of ₦2,758,296,000. The Committee on Salary Shortfalls, set up by the Honourable Minister of Finance, has come up with a figure of ₦41,875,083,020 as the amount required to settle salary shortfalls of non-IPPIS MDAs. Similarly, most of the IPPIS MDAs have already been notified by the Office of the Accountant-General of the Federation (OAGF) that they would soon be locked out of the IPPIS Platform as their Personnel Cost budgets would not cover salaries for the rest of the year. The IPPIS Department in the OAGF has forwarded a figure of ₦20,058,204,856 as the sum required to cover the shortfall in salaries of IPPIS MDAs.

The Security-related lines in the Service Wide Vote, specifically Operations-Internal for the Armed Forces (₦13billion) and Operation Lafiya Dole (₦8billion) have all been totally released while the Nigerian Air Force needs about (₦12,708,367,476) to cover the foreign exchange differentials in the procurement of its critical capabilities.

The Contingency Vote of ₦12billon has a balance of only ₦1,827,570,443. It is considered necessary to augment this vote in the light of frequently emerging contingencies.

Only ₦20,000,000,000 (already fully released) was provided in the 2016 budget for the Niger Delta Amnesty Programme. Consequently, the allowances to ex-militants have only been paid up to May 2016. This is creating a lot of restiveness and compounding the security challenge in the Niger Delta.

The Provision for NYSC in the 2016 budget is inadequate to cater for the number of corpers to be mobilized this year. In fact, an additional ₦8.5billion is required to cover the backlog of 129,469 corps members who are currently due for call up but would otherwise be left out till next year due to funding constraints. Similarly, the provision for meal subsidy for the Unity Colleges is inadequate for the number of students in the schools. Also, there was no provision for feeding of cadets at the Police Academy, Wudil, Kano. These situations are hampering the operations of the affected agencies.

The provision for Statutory Transfer to the Public Complaints Commission (PCC) was reduced to ₦2,000,000,000 in 2016 from ₦4,000,000,000 in 2015. Consequently, the agency is experiencing difficulty in paying salaries of its personnel as and when due.

Due to the devaluation of the Naira, the budgetary provisions for the foreign missions are no longer sufficient to cover all their costs.

The provision for Presidential Initiative for the North East (₦12,000,000,000) has a balance of less than ₦1.5bn, and there continue to be emerging challenges with the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in the zone.

I therefore request for virement from the Special Intervention (Recurrent) and Special intervention (Capital) to fund the following critical expenditure items:-

Recurrent:

i.	*Service Wide Vote: public Service Wage Adjustment (PSWA) (Details in Annexure 1)*	*₦ 71,800,215,270*
ii.	*Service-Wide Vote: Contingency:*	*1,200,000,000*

iii	*Service Wide Vote: Margin for Increase in Cost (MIC).*	*2,000,000,000*
iv	*Ministry of Interior: Cadet Feeding - Police Academy, Wudil, Kano:*	*932,400,000*
v	*Service Wide Vote: Amnesty Programme*	*35,000,000,000*
vi	*Service Wide Vote: Internal Operations of the Armed Forces*	*5,205,930,270*
vii	*Service Wide Vote: Operation Lafiya Dole*	*13,933,093,000*
viii	*Ministry of Youth and Sports Development: NYSC*	*19,792,018,400*
ix	*Ministry of Foreign Affairs: Foreign Missions*	*14,667,230,014*
x	*Federal Ministry of Education: Augmentation of Meal Subsidy/Direct Teaching & Lab Cost*	*900,000,000*
Sub Total		***165,430,886,954***
Statutory Transfer:		
i.	*Statutory Transfer: Public Complaints Commission (Salary Shortfall)*	*1,200,000,000*
	Sub Total	*1,200,000,000*
Capital:		
i.	*Ministry of Defence: Nigerian Air Force (NAF)*	*12,708,367,476*
ii.	*Capital Supplementation: Presidential initiative for the North East (PINE)*	*1,500,000,000*
	Sub Total	***14,208,367,476***
	Grand Total	***180,839,254,430***

From the foregoing, the total recurrent expenditure requirement is ₦166,630,886,954 while the capital expenditure requirement is ₦14,208,367,476. Most MDAs have substantially advanced work on their 2016 procurement plans, and are awaiting release of funds. The Personnel Cost and Overhead provisions leave no margin for amounts to be vired from them. The only viable provisions from which the required amounts can be vired are those for the Special Intervention Programme which are not likely to be fully utilized this year as it took some time to work out proper operational modalities for its operation. We are committed to the implementation of the Special Intervention Programme and intend to provide fully for it in the 2017 Budget.

Please find as tabulated below the proposed sources for the amounts to be vired:

S/N	*MDA/Budget Line*	*Appropriation* ₦	*Balance* ₦	*Virement Proposal* ₦
1.	*Special Intervention (Recurrent) SWV*	*300,000,000,000*	*275,000,000,000*	*166,630,886,954*
2.	*Capital in FGN Special Intervention Programme (Capital Supplementation)*	*200,000,000,000*	*145,000,000,000*	*14,208,367,476*
	Total	***500,000,000,000***	***420,000,000,000***	***180,839,254,430***

You may also wish to be informed that the Federal Ministry of Power, Works and Housing has also requested for the virement of the sum of ₦300million appropriated under the 2016 Appropriation of the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) for the Construction of 132KVA Substation at Gwaram, Jigawa State with Project Code No. TCN 01 B023829 to the Construction of 2 x 60MVA 132/33 in Gagarawa, Jigawa State. However, it was observed that while the line to

be vired from exists in the budget book published by National Assembly, the lines to be vired to do not exist. It is therefore recommended that the sum of ₦300million meant for the Construction of 132KVA Substation at Gwaram, Jigawa State be vired to budget line TCN01B021775 for Reconstruction of Fallen Transmission Towers, Replacement of Glass Insulators, etc. which has an appropriation of ₦4,880,000,000.

I implore you to urgently consider the above proposals in order to support our efforts to improve the well-being of our citizens. I assure you that these proposals have been diligently evaluated, and are truly exigent.

Please accept, Distinguished Senate President, the assurances of my highest regards.

Yours Sincerely,
(Signed)
Muhammadu Buhari

4. Announcement:

Acknowledgment:

The Deputy Senate President acknowledged the presence of the following who were in the gallery to observe Senate Proceedings:

(*i*) Members of Arewa Youth Students Forum, National Executive Council, Murtala Muhammed Square, Kaduna, Kaduna State;

(*ii*) Staff and Students of Lightway Academy, Wuse II, Abuja; and

(*iii*) Staff and Students of Doveland International School, Wuse II, Abuja.

5. Petitions:

(*i*) Rising on Rule 41, Senator Sunny O. Ogbuoji *(Ebonyi South)* drew the attention of the Senate to a petition from his constituent, Prince Ogochukwu Igwe, on allegation of gross violation and illegal deportation from Switzerland. He urged the Senate to look into the matter.

Petition laid and accordingly referred to the Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions [Rule 41(3)] to report within two (2) weeks.

(*ii*) Rising on Rule 41, Senator Obinna J. Ogba *(Ebonyi Central)* drew the attention of the Senate to a petition from his constituent, CPL Wilson Uchaka, over wrongful dismissal by the Nigeria Police. He urged the Senate to look into the matter.

Petition laid and accordingly referred to the Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions [Rule 41(3)] to report within two (2) weeks.

(*iii*) Rising on Rule 41, Senator Mao A. Ohuabunwa *(Abia North)* drew the attention of the Senate to two petitions from:

(a) PC Obasi Noble, over wrongful dismissal by the Nigeria Police; and

(b) Mazi E. Emenike, against non payment of his late wife Mrs. Okereke Happiness pension by the Nigeria Immigration Service.

Petitions laid and accordingly referred to the Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions [Rule 41(3)] to report within two (2) weeks.

(*iv*) Rising on Rule 41, Senator Solomon A. Olamilekan *(Lagos West)* drew the attention of the Senate to two petitions from:

(a) Musa A. Akinyemi, over his reinstatement and compensation by the Nigerian Shippers Council, Lagos; and

(b) Majaro O. Isaac, over retrieval and denial of employment by the National Identity Management Commission (NIMC).

Petitions laid and accordingly referred to the Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions [Rule 41(3)] to report within two (2) weeks.

6. Motions:

(a) National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) Mobilization:

By leave of the Senate Motion withdrawn.

(b) Need to Include Pan-Africanism in Nigerian Secondary Schools Curriculum:
Motion made: That the Senate notes that the concept of Pan Africanism started in the 19th Century as an ideology and movement that encouraged the solidarity of Africans worldwide based on the general believe that unity is vital and pertinent to economic, social and political progress for the people of African descent. In 1900, the Trinidadian Barrister Henry Sylvester Williams called a conference that took place in Westminster Hall, London to "protest stealing of lands in the colonies, racial discrimination and deal with other issues of interest to Blacks";

notes also that in 1958, Kwame Nkrumah, the first leader of independent Ghana, called a meeting of all independent African states in Accra, comprising of Sudan, Egypt, Tunisia, Ethiopia, Liberia and Morocco in order to recommit themselves to support agitation for independence for the rest of the continent;

aware that as a result of the 1958 meeting in Ghana, by 1963 there were 31 independent nations in Africa and consequently the Organization of African Unity (OAU) was formed in May, 1963 to further galvanize African countries;

worried that the struggle for the unity of Africa, as championed by the founding fathers of the African continent like Chief Nnamdi Azikiwe and others has rapidly evaporated from the psyche of the present and up-coming generation;

concerned that if our children are not inspired about Africanism, the dream of our founding fathers about the unity of Africa will be a mere folk tale and will continue to remain a reference for historical purposes;

cognisance that Julius Kambarage Nyerere, in 1966, while addressing African leaders said: "Your Excellencies, we have achieved many things in Africa in recent years, and can look back with pride at the distance we have travelled. But we are a long way from achieving the thing we originally set out to achieve, and I believe there is a greater danger that we might now voluntarily surrender our greater dream of all";

cognisance also that Nigeria as the giant of Africa which has helped many African countries to attain self-rule, there is the need to inculcate the spirit of Pan-Africanism in the Nigerian child to be nurtured in a manner that we can continue to be "our brothers' keeper" and foster the objective of our founding fathers; and

conscious and determined to ensure that we do not voluntarily surrender the dream of the founding fathers of Africa and considering the strategic importance of Nigeria in global affairs in general and Africa in particular.

Accordingly resolves to;

(*i*) urge the Federal Ministry of Education to include Pan-Africanism in Nigerian Secondary Schools curriculum;

(*ii*) urge the Federal Government to erect a mausoleum in the Federal Capital Territory in honour and memory of Pan-Africanist and all who struggled for African Unity and liberation; and

(*iii*) observe a minute silence in honor of late Pan-Africanists (*Senator Shehu Sani — Kaduna Central*).

Debate:

Proposed Resolution (i):
Question: That the Senate do urge the Federal Ministry of Education to include Pan-Africanism in Nigerian Secondary Schools curriculum.

Amendment Proposed:
Leave out the word "Pan- African" in line 2 , and *insert* the words "the study of History and Civic Education" (*Senator Mao A. Ohuabunwa — Abia North*).

Question that the amendment be made, put and agreed to.

Proposed Resolution (ii):
Question: That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to erect a mausoleum in the Federal Capital Territory in honour and memory of Pan-Africanist and all who struggled for African Unity and liberation — *Negatived.*

Proposed Resolution (iii):
Question: That the Senate do observe a minute silence in honor of late Pan-Africanists — *Negatived.*

Additional Proposed Resolution:
Insert Additional Proposed Resolution as follows:
"Urge the African Union (AU) to set a day to annually commemorate the lives and times of Pan-Africanists" (*Senator Suleiman A. Adokwe — Nasarawa South).*

Question that the amendment be made, put and agreed to.

Resolved:
That the Senate do:
(*i*) urge the Federal Ministry of Education to include the study of History and Civic Education in Nigerian Secondary Schools curriculum; and

(*ii*) urge the African Union (AU) to set a day to annually commemorate the lives and times of Pan-Africanists***(S/Res/033/02/16)***.

(c) Need to revisit the regulatory conflict between Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB) and Universities in offering admissions in Nigeria:
Motion made: That the Senate notes that the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB) was established in 1976 and saddled with the responsibility of streamlining and coordinating admissions, as well as determining who is admitted into universities and other tertiary educational institutions in Nigeria;

further notes that the Nigerian Universities Commission (NUC) is the Federal umbrella organization which oversees the administration of higher education in Nigeria, and prior to 2005, the only criteria needed for candidates seeking admission into tertiary institutions was for such candidate to possess a certain score at his or her JAMB examination;

aware that the laudable objectives of JAMB began to suffer retrogression shortly after its inception as some universities admitted students outside the list sent by JAMB, and rejecting candidates with admission letters from JAMB on the ground that they had to comply with their own internal quota and catchment criteria, coupled with the issue of malpractice that plagued the JAMB examination;

further aware that as scores of successful JAMB candidates turned out to be ill equipped for university education, the Federal Government, in 2005, under the leadership of President Olusegun Obasanjo, introduced the policy of post - JAMB screening by universities, which made it compulsory for tertiary institutions to screen candidates after JAMB results and before giving admission;

worried that while this new development was aimed at addressing the problem of student quality, it re-introduced and entrenched many of the problems sought to be eliminated through JAMB;

cognizant that while the executives introduced the post-JAMB policy to remedy the decay in educational standard in higher institutions of learning, there have been public outcry of extortion from candidates despite the rigorous test they pass through at JAMB;

disturbed that as the integrity of the post-JAMB examination is open to questions, as the pecuniary motive of the respective institutions has become so visible to the fore that there is little pretence about maximizing income flows through these internal examinations; and

regrets that the introduction of the Post-JAMB examination has to a large extent failed to remedy the problems associated with the JAMB and as such, its continued existence poses more challenges for Nigeria's educational system.

Accordingly resolves to:

(*i*) urge the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB) to develop strategy to ensure efficiency in the conduct of JAMB examination; and

(*ii*) make such further directives as it deems expedient in the circumstance (*Senator Umaru I. Kurfi — Katsina Central*).

Debate:

Proposed Resolution(i):
Question: That the Senate do urge the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB) to develop strategy to ensure efficiency in the conduct of JAMB examination — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution(ii):
Question: That the Senate do make such further directives as it deems expedient in the circumstance — *Negatived.*

Resolved:
That the Senate do urge the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB) to develop strategy to ensure efficiency in the conduct of JAMB examination ***(S/Res/034/02/16).***

(d) Need for the establishment of Inland Ports at Onitsha, Enugu and other Landlocked States:
Motion made: That the Senate notes that Inland water transport which is also referred to as domestic water borne transport, provides an efficient mode of transportation of persons, goods and services;

further notes that the development of Inland water transport in Onitsha, Enugu and Aba is induced not only by their geo-physical features, in which there are navigable land water ways, but also because their commercial and industrial activities are highly dependent on the exportation and importation of raw materials, machineries and equipment;

observe that the existing maritime ports in Lagos, Port-Harcourt and Calabar are being over stretched and that the congestion of these ports constitutes serious security threat to lives and property, especially now that there is heightened security concern at crowded locations;

regrets that due to over congestion in the existing maritime ports and the bureaucracy associated with the clearing of goods, a lot of precious time which would otherwise have been committed to other productive economic engagements is often wasted;

worried that there have been causes of avoidable loss of lives and destruction of goods due to movement by road of containers and heavy equipment carrying trucks;

acknowledges that Inland water transport not only reduces traffic jams on road transportation and the slowing down of economic activities, but also decreases the cost of transportation in the movement of oil, rice, sugar, cement, fertilizers and heavy equipment, thereby providing an alternative cheap and reliable means than other modes of transport; and

further acknowledges that Inland water transport generates a lot of revenue for the Federal and State Governments, which is channeled towards the development of other sectors, including health and education infrastructure and the creation of employment and job opportunities for Nigerians, thereby ensuring engagement of workers and reduction of social problems induced by unemployment.

Accordingly resolves to:

(*i*) urge the Federal Government through the Ministry of Transport to establish inland ports in Onitsha, Enugu and other landlocked States;

(*ii*) urge the Federal Government through the Nigerian Shippers Council to carry out appropriate feasibility studies for the purpose of establishing inland ports in Onitsha, Enugu and other landlocked States;

(*iii*) mandate the Committees on Transport; and Works to ensure full compliance with prayers (i) and (ii) above (*Senator Stella A. Oduah — Anambra North*).

Debate:

Further consideration of Motion deferred to another Legislative Day.

(*e*) ***Need for the Re-establishment of Toll Gates on our Federal Highways:***
Motion made: That the Senate notes that the main purpose of toll gates is for revenue generation which will aid effective and efficient maintenance of Federal highways;

observes that deplorable state of roads in Nigeria has certainly become a national shame and unnecessary embarrassment;

notes that the re-establishment of toll gates is a solution to saving the nation's generally dilapidated road networks;

observes that besides revenue generation, the presence of toll gates which are normally managed by armed security agents, provides a level of safety for road users;

notes that government alone cannot fund road construction;

disturbed that the poor state of roads in Nigeria has remained for many years a great source of risk for travelers and transporters;

worried that cases of road accidents being reported daily in the news media paint terrible and pathetic pictures of this ugly development;

alarmed that the state of the country's infrastructure like roads are worrisome, particularly due to corruption and mismanagement of resources over the years;

notes that maintenance of roads can be taken seriously instead of constructing new ones;

observes that the use of toll gates provides Nigeria with an excellent strategy to improve its road and bridges for the benefit of Nigerians; and

recalls that toll gate was abolished by former President Olusegun Obasanjo in 2004, who advocated that the revenue for road maintenance should rather be generated from an increased price of petrol.

Accordingly Resolves to:
constitute an *Ad hoc* Committee of the Senate to carefully study the toll gate policy together with other relevant stakeholders on effective and efficient ways to carry out the policy aimed at producing a holistic package to generate adequate funds for roads maintenance, and the money realized should be judiciously utilized in order to restore confidence in the masses (*Senator Suleiman Nazif — Bauchi North*).

Debate:

Proposed Resolution:
Question: That the Senate do constitute an *Ad hoc* Committee of the Senate to carefully study the toll gate policy together with other relevant stakeholders on effective and efficient ways to carry out the policy aimed at producing a holistic package to generate adequate funds for roads maintenance, and the money realized should be judiciously utilized in order to restore confidence in the masses.

Amendment Proposed:
Leave out the Proposed Resolution and *insert* the following instead thereof:
"Direct the Committee on Works to carefully study the toll gate policy together with Infrastructure Concession Regulatory Commission (ICRC) and other stakeholders on effective and efficient way to carry out the policy aimed at producing a holistic package to generate funds for roads construction, rehabilitation and maintenance in the country" (*Senator Mao A. Ohuabunwa — Abia North*).

Question that the amendment be made, put and agreed to.

Resolved:
That the Senate do direct the Committee on Works to carefully study the toll gate policy together with Infrastructure Concession Regulatory Commission (ICRC) and other stakeholders on effective and efficient way to carry out the policy aimed at producing a holistic package to generate funds for roads construction, rehabilitation and maintenance in the country***(S/Res/035/02/16)***.

(f) ***Urgent need for Declaration of Emergency over the Security Situation in the Southern Kaduna:***

Consideration of Motion deferred to another Legislative Day.

(g) ***Exclusion of South East Nigerians in Key National Appointments:***

Consideration of Motion deferred to another Legislative Day.

(h) ***Need to Determine the Status of Unclaimed ₦90 Billion Dividends in Securities for Nigerian Investors:***

Consideration of Motion deferred to another Legislative Day.

(i) ***Urgent need to review the Implementation Status of Nigerian Automotive Industry Development Plan (NAIDP):***

Motion made: That the Senate notes that the National Automotive Council (NAC) was statutorily established in 1993 as a Parastatal of the Federal Ministry of Industry to ensure the survival and growth of the Nigerian Automotive Industry using local, human and material resources to enhance the industry's contribution to the national economy, especially in the areas of transportation of people and goods;

further notes that in 2013, the Federal Government approved the Nigerian Automotive Industry Development Plan (NAIDP) to transform the Nigerian Automotive Industry and attract investment into the sector;

aware that the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment developed a 5-year Programme on Nigerian Industrial Revolution to diversify Nigeria's economy and revenues through industry and to increase manufacturing's contribution to GDP from 4% in 2014 to 6% in 2015 and finally above 10% by 2017;

further aware that in many countries around the world, the Automotive industry plays a strategic and catalytic role in the economic development, in employment generation, GDP contribution, development of Small, Medium and Micro-enterprises (SMEs) in respect of automotive parts, skills development and acquisition of technology;

informed that certain companies have benefitted from the funds generated by the Automotive Industry whose particulars and details have not been disclosed to the public for transparency and accountability;

worried that the laudable objectives of the Nigerian Automotive Industry Development Plan which include; development of industrial infrastructure, skills development, standards, investment promotion and vehicle purchase scheme have not been realized given the crisis of under-development faced by the industry and difficulties faced by over 38 million middle class Nigerians in purchasing fairly used and fully built up imported cars due to high tariff fixed at a maximum of 70% duty and levy;

disturbed that the increase in tariff which raised domestic price of imported vehicles and spare parts compounded by high and scarce foreign exchange leaves much to be desired especially in recognition of an estimated annual vehicular demand of over 500,000 as at 2012; and

regret that while the Automotive industry in Nigeria remains in comatose despite the combined existence of the Nigerian Automotive Industry Development Plan and the Nigerian Industrial Revolution Programme, the situation is aggravated by casual failure of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), Nigeria Customs Service and the National Automotive Council to utilize the accumulated funds generated over the years to transform the Automotive industry.

Accordingly resolves to:

(*i*) direct its Committees on Industry; Trade and Investment; Customs and Excise; and Finance to conduct a Public Hearing to:

(a) Ascertain the current implementation status of the Nigerian Automotive Industry Development Plan and the Nigerian Industrial Revolution Plan;

(b) Ascertain the status of accumulated NAC levy funds generated over the years domiciled within the CBN in the implementation of the Policy; and

(c) Ascertain the beneficiaries of loans and grants and the circumstances surrounding the disbursement and execution of such funds generated by the National Automotive Council and other relevant revenue generating Agencies.

(*ii*) identify existing challenges and key role played by specific Government Agencies in aggravating the situation; and

(*iii*) recommend appropriate measures including identification of key legislations for reform to address the menace faced by the industry (*Senator Malam A. Wakili — Bauchi South*).

Debate:

Proposed Resolution(i):

Question: That the Senate do direct its Committees on Industry; Trade and Investment; Customs and Excise; and Finance to conduct a Public Hearing to:

(a) Ascertain the current implementation status of the Nigerian Automotive Industry Development Plan and the Nigerian Industrial Revolution Plan;

(b) Ascertain the status of accumulated NAC levy funds generated over the years domiciled within the CBN in the implementation of the Policy; and

(c) Ascertain the beneficiaries of loans and grants and the circumstances surrounding the disbursement and execution of such funds generated by the National Automotive Council and other relevant revenue generating Agencies.

Amendment proposed:

Immediately after the words "Finance to" in line 2, *leave out* the words "conduct a Public Hearing to" (*Senator Barnabas A. I. Gemade — Benue North-East).*

Question that the amendment be made, put and agreed to.

Proposed Resolution(ii):

Question: That the Senate do identify existing challenges and key role played by specific Government Agencies in aggravating the situation — *Negatived.*

Proposed Resolution(iii):

Question: That the Senate do recommend appropriate measures including identification of key legislations for reform to address the menace faced by the industry — *Agree to.*

Resolved:
That the Senate do:

(*i*) direct its Committees on Industry; Trade and Investment; Customs and Excise; and Finance to:

(a) Ascertain the current implementation status of the Nigerian Automotive Industry Development Plan and the Nigerian Industrial Revolution Plan;

(b) Ascertain the status of accumulated NAC levy funds generated over the years domiciled within the CBN in the implementation of the Policy; and

(c) Ascertain the beneficiaries of loans and grants and the circumstances surrounding the disbursement and execution of such funds generated by the National Automotive Council and other relevant revenue generating Agencies.

(*ii*) recommend appropriate measures including identification of key legislations for reform to address the menace faced by the industry ***(S/Res/036/02/16)***.

(j) Menace of Street Begging and the need to rehabilitate Beggars:
Motion made: That the Senate notes with concern the exponential increase in the scourge of street begging and the nuisance it constitutes on the streets of major cities across the country;

aware that though street begging is a global urban problem, the situation in Nigeria appears intractable and overwhelming as beggars are now found everywhere especially at motor parks, religious centres, road junctions, venues of ceremonies and other public places;

also aware that in the past beggars are persons with physical and mental challenges or grossly indigent, in recent times there appear to be a new vogue of beggars in town, derisively known as corporate beggars who take advantage of the sympathy of the society for the less privileged to remain jobless and at times perpetrate crimes in the name of street begging;

observes that while street begging may represent the general idea of asking for alms, mendicancy or the religious/cultural perspective of street begging appears to have a strong implication for the phenomenon, especially in the northern part of the country;

regrets that while for example the system that produced the almajiris in the north is still very much in existence, its economic support tools have largely been discarded with the neglect of zakat collection and other forms of tax for its sustenance;

further aware that unconfirmed reports have it that an average of 65% of beggars from the northern part of the country flock into Lagos to beg every year, with the Federal Capital Territory battling similar statistics;

acknowledges that street begging affect (not only) the geographical and social structure of urban areas, it also portrays the country in a bad image to tourist and foreign visitors;

concerned that street begging is a worrisome socio-economic challenge, in addition to being a serious menace and liability on the Nigerian populace, as it takes a heavy toll on the lives of teenagers who either act as guide to beggars or even engage in the act themselves and therefore are out of school; and

further concerned that some of the women who engage in street begging also reportedly practice prostitution on the side, thereby leading to unwanted pregnancies and the bearing of even more child street beggars, while some hoodlums even hide under the guise of beggars to carry out evil/criminal deeds.

Accordingly resolves to:

(*i*) urge governments at all levels to strengthen the social welfare programme to make it more meaningful so as to check the tide of physically challenged gravitating to street begging as the only means of survival;

(*ii*) urge the Federal Government to set up rehabilitation centres and vocational training centres to provide beggars with alternative means of livelihood thereby making them useful to the society;

(*iii*) provide articulate policy to re-integrate almajiris into the educational system thereby discouraging them from being used for street begging; and

(*iv*) urge the National Orientation Agency and other relevant government information/communication agencies to embark on aggressive enlightenment campaigns to educate the populace on the social consequences of street begging (*Senator Isa H. Misau — Bauchi Central*).

Debate:

Proposed Resolution (i):
Question: That the Senate do urge governments at all levels to strengthen the social welfare programme to make it more meaningful so as to check the tide of physically challenged gravitating to street begging as the only means of survival — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (ii):
Question: That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to set up rehabilitation centres and vocational training centres to provide beggars with alternative means of livelihood thereby making them useful to the society — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (iii):
Question: That the Senate do provide articulate policy to re-integrate almajiris into the educational system thereby discouraging them from being used for street begging — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (iv):
Question: That the Senate do urge the National Orientation Agency and other relevant government information/communication agencies to embark on aggressive enlightenment campaigns to educate the populace on the social consequences of street begging — *Agreed to.*

Additional Proposed Resolution:
Insert Additional Proposed Resolution as follows:
"Urge the Federal Government to ensure the clean up of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) and other cities of miscreants called beggars" (*Senator Emmanuel Bwacha — Taraba South).*

Question that the amendment be made, put and agreed to.

Resolved:
That the Senate do:

(*i*) urge governments at all levels to strengthen the social welfare programme to make it more meaningful so as to check the tide of physically challenged gravitating to street begging as the only means of survival;

(*ii*) urge the Federal Government to set up rehabilitation centres and vocational training centres to provide beggars with alternative means of livelihood thereby making them useful to the society;

(*iii*) provide articulate policy to re-integrate almajiris into the educational system thereby discouraging them from being used for street begging;

(*iv*) urge the National Orientation Agency and other relevant government information/communication agencies to embark on aggressive enlightenment campaigns to educate the populace on the social consequences of street begging; and

(v) urge the Federal Government to ensure the clean up of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) and other cities of miscreants called beggars ***(S/Res/037/02/16)***.

7. Adjournment:
Motion made: That the Senate do now adjourn till Wednesday, 26th October, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. (*Senate Leader*).

Adjourned accordingly at 1:11 *p.m.*

Ike Ekweremadu, CFR
Deputy Senate President,
Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.